

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** A. Stoyanov et al. **Attorney Docket No.:** 25384  
**Application No.:** 10/815,206 **Art Unit:** 1731 / Confirmation No: 9520  
**Filed:** March 31, 2004 **Examiner:** D.R. Cordray  
**Title:** BLEACHED CROSSLINKED CELLULOSIC FIBERS WITH HIGH COLOR AND BRIGHTNESS

**DECLARATION OF KATHY A. WELCH PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.131**

Seattle, Washington 98101

April 13, 2006

**TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:**

I, Kathy A. Welch, declare as follows:

1. I am employed by Weyerhaeuser Company as a Scientist.
2. I have read and am familiar with U.S. Patent Application No. 10/815,206, (the '206 application).
3. I have read and am familiar with U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0208859 A1 ("the Neogi reference") that published November 13, 2003.
4. Prior to the publication date of the Neogi reference, I conducted pilot line trials in which cellulose fibers were crosslinked with a crosslinking agent in the presence of a polyol and then bleached. These bleached crosslinked fibers were prepared under the direction of Angel Stoyanov, M.Sc., an inventor of the subject matter claimed in the '206 application. The following describes two pilot line runs Trial T-75 and Trial 82 performed on September 8, 2003 and October 28, 2003 respectively, that provided cellulosic fibers crosslinked with citric acid in the presence of sorbitol described in Table 4 of the '206 application.
  - a. In Trial 75, southern pine kraft pulp (CF416) was crosslinked with an impregnation solution including citric acid (crosslinking agent), sodium hypophosphite (SHP, crosslinking catalyst), and sorbitol as set forth on page 1 of my laboratory